

# Variation in Structure of the Subcanopy Assemblage Associated with Southern California Populations of the Intertidal Rockweed *Silvetia compressa* (Fucales)<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** Variation in structure of the subcanopy communities associated with southern California *Silvetia compressa* (J. Agardh) Serrão, Cho, Boo & Brawley populations was examined at eight sites, including four long-standing intertidal Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Although sea temperature and salinity showed little variation, maximum wave force and sand influence differed significantly among sites. Seaweed and sessile macroinvertebrate cover and mobile macroinvertebrate densities were determined in 10 quadrats during both autumn 1995 and spring 1996. A total of 111 taxa was distinguished at the eight sites, including 47 macroalgae, 20 sessile macroinvertebrates, and 44 mobile macroinvertebrates; however, only a few species consistently dominated abundances in the subcanopy assemblage. *Silvetia compressa* cover varied significantly among sites during both sampling periods; cover was significantly greater at all but one site during the autumn. Morphologies of *Silvetia compressa* thalli were qualitatively similar except at Monarch Bay, where plants were the least densely aggregated and frond lengths were two to three times greater than at other sites. Seaweeds contributed 71.2% of the subcanopy cover averaged over all sites compared with 23.8% sessile macroinvertebrate cover; mobile invertebrate densities averaged 363.9 m<sup>-2</sup> over all sites. The three most abundant seaweeds (*Pseudolithoderma nigra*, *Pseudolithophyllum neofarlowii*, and *Corallina pinnatifolia*/*C. vancouveriensis*) and macroinvertebrates (*Phragmatopoma californica*, *Mytilus californianus*, and *Anthopleura elegantissima*) accounted for approximately 67% and 20%, respectively, of total understory cover. The three most abundant mobile macroinvertebrates (*Littorina scutulata*, *Lepidochitona hartwegii*, and *Macclintockia scabra*/*Lottia conus*) accounted for nearly 60% of all mobile animals. An average of 27 macrophytes and sessile macroinvertebrates and 19 mobile macroinvertebrates occurred at a site; site *H'* diversity based on macrophyte and sessile macroinvertebrate cover averaged 1.91; mobile macroinvertebrate *H'* diversity based on density averaged 2.03. Neither cluster analysis nor multidimensional scaling produced clear site patterns based on geographic location or sampling period; long-standing MPA sites did not form a distinct group and did not differ significantly in community structure from nonhistorical MPAs based on Analysis of Similarity (ANOSIM) tests. Communities representing autumn and spring were more closely associated with each other than with communities from other sites. Differences in community structure were detected among individual sites in all ANOSIM tests despite strong similarities in abundant taxa. ANOSIM tests also showed that understory communities differed between

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sampling periods, except for analyses based on cover in recently established MPAs. Significant differences in the cover and density of many abundant subcanopy populations also were found among sites using univariate statistical procedures. Only weak relationships could be established between variations in species types and environmental factors. These results suggest the importance of localized and stochastic histories in generating site variation among rockweed-associated populations and the difficulties in establishing post hoc relationships between environmental patterns and variations in species abundances.

VARIATIONS IN ROCKY intertidal communities at the scale of the individual site have received much attention. For example, the vertical distributions and abundances of species populations as a function of tidal height (e.g., Lewis 1964, Stephenson and Stephenson 1972, Ricketts et al. 1985) and the temporal dynamics of patch formation and colonization (reviewed by Paine and Levin 1981, Sousa 1985) are well known. In addition, field assessments of control and impacted study areas or sites, separated by distances of meters to several kilometers, have formed the basis for determining the effects of anthropogenic and natural disturbances on rocky intertidal communities (Green 1979, Stewart-Oaten et al. 1986, Osenberg and Schmitt 1996). Few studies, however, have addressed the degree of variation in the structure of communities occupying sites exposed to similar oceanographic conditions and distributed over spatial scales of only a few kilometers.

Fucacean rockweeds are persistent features of semiprotected, temperate rocky intertidal communities, where they form assemblages characterized by a diversity of invertebrates and seaweeds (Lubchenco 1983, Foster et al. 1991b, Mathieson et al. 1991, Thompson et al. 1996). These rockweeds compete for primary space with sessile invertebrates, such as barnacles and mussels (Mann 1982), and protect understory species from desiccation during tidal emersion. Furoid fronds also contribute to the disturbance of subcanopy organisms through whiplash (Southward 1956, Hawkins and Hartnoll 1983a) and by harboring high densities of invertebrate grazers (Hawkins and Hartnoll 1983b, Lubchenco 1983, Van Alstyne 1990).

Because of their abundance, ecological importance, and restricted vertical distribu-

tions on temperate shores (Lewis 1964, Stephenson and Stephenson 1972, Foster et al. 1991b), fucacean communities are excellent candidates for studies of site-scale variation in population and community parameters. Most previous work on furoid communities has concentrated on factors influencing the distribution and abundance of the canopy-forming rockweeds (Chapman 1995), including grazers (Lubchenco 1983, Chapman and Johnson 1990, Menge 1991), wave force (Pielou 1981, Vadas et al. 1990), desiccation (Schonbeck and Norton 1978), and sand inundation (Daly and Mathieson 1977). Few studies have concentrated on the organisms that live beneath these canopies and the degree to which the structure of subcanopy assemblages varies among sites distributed over short distances.

In the North Pacific, most ecological research on rockweed communities has focused on *Fucus* and its associates. Much less is known about communities dominated by *Silvetia compressa* (J. Agardh) Serrão, Cho, Boo & Brawley (formerly known as *Pelvetia fastigiata* (J. Agardh) DeToni), a fucacean seaweed that characterizes protected and semiprotected rocky intertidal habitats throughout central and southern California (Abbott and Hollenberg 1976, Ricketts et al. 1985, Murray and Bray 1993). Previous studies have addressed the demography (Gunnill 1980, 1985) and genetic structure (Williams and Di Fiori 1996) of *S. compressa* populations and the abundances of their microepibiotic faunal associates (Gunnill 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985); to our knowledge, only Hill (1980) has described the macroorganism populations found beneath *S. compressa* fronds.

The purpose of this research was to characterize among-site and temporal variation in the structure of the subcanopy seaweed

and macroinvertebrate communities associated with southern California *Silvetia compressa* populations. A second purpose was to determine whether *S. compressa* assemblages in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) established more than 25 yr ago could be distinguished from those at sites only very recently accorded MPA protection.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

##### Study Sites

Eight sites were established along ca. 15.5 km of southwest-facing coastline in Orange County, California (Figure 1, Table 1). This coastline consists mostly of a composite of rocky headlands and pocket beaches, backed by eroded bluffs, and is semiprotected from

predominant wave patterns by offshore islands (Hickey 1993). All study areas were characterized by conspicuous *S. compressa* assemblages, which occupied largely horizontal, rocky substrata. Study sites were separated by distances ranging from 1.1 to 5.1 km and showed little site-to-site variation in sea temperature ( $\leq 1^\circ\text{C}$ ) and salinity ( $\leq 1\text{‰}$ ). Sea temperature in this region ranged annually throughout the 1980s from seasonal means of 13 to 21°C and salinity from 32 to 34‰ (Brophy and Murray 1989). During the study, temperatures near the study site ranged from 13.2 to 19.0°C and salinities from 31.6 to 33.6‰ (Balboa, Newport Beach, California; <ftp://nemo.ucsd.edu/pub/shore>). Four of the eight sites were intertidal MPAs (California Marine Life Refuges) where the collection of marine plants and most species of

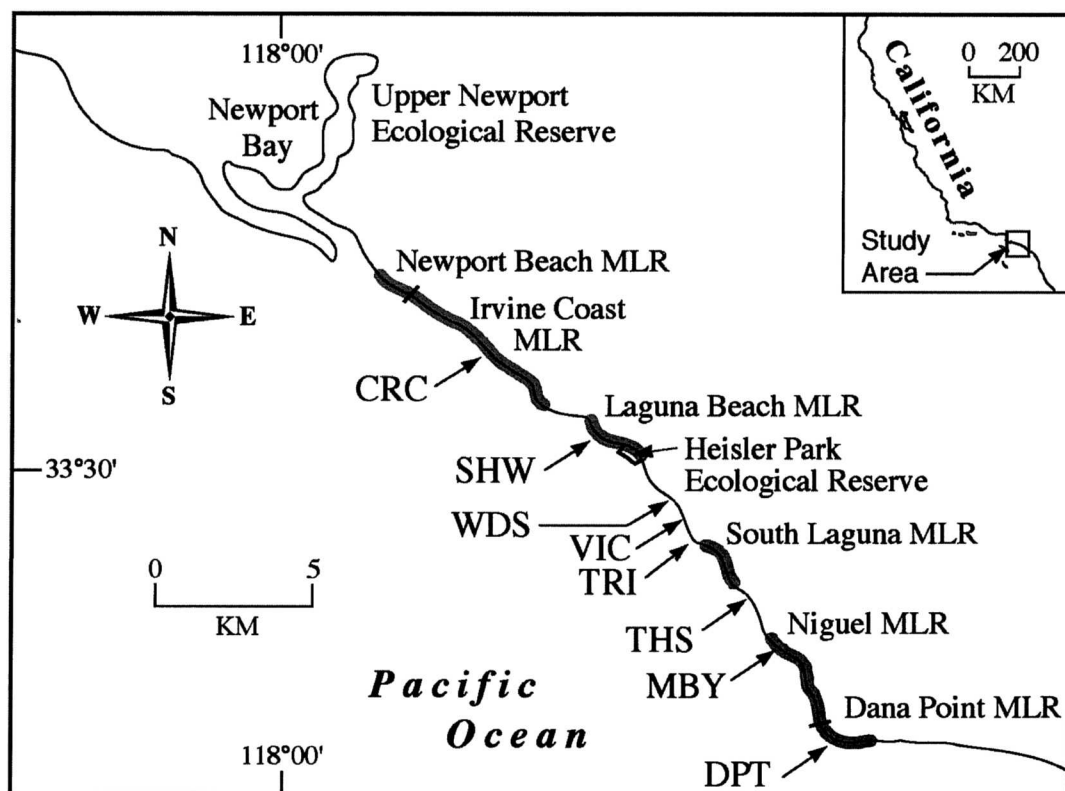


FIGURE 1. Map of the eight southern California study sites. Study site codes: CRC, Crystal Cove; SHW, Shaw's Cove; WDS, Woods Cove; VIC, Victoria Beach; TRI, Treasure Island; THS, Thousand Steps; MBY, Monarch Bay; DPT, Dana Point. Shaded areas represent boundaries of local MPAs (California Marine Life Refuges and Ecological Reserves) established before 1994 in which collecting of invertebrates is prohibited.

TABLE 1

Characteristics of the Eight Study Sites, Including Latitude and Longitude, Geological Formation, General Site Topography, and Vertical Tidal Range of the *S. compressa* Assemblage

Site <sup>a,b</sup> (Abbreviation)	Latitude and Longitude	Geologic Formation <sup>c</sup>	Site Topography	Vertical Range (m)
†Crystal Cove (CRC)	33° 34' 13" N 117° 50' 15" W	Tm	Flattened and angled benches separated by crevices resulting between uplifted bedding planes	+0.7 to +1.2
†Shaw's Cove (SHW)	33° 32' 42" N 117° 47' 57" W	Tso	Flattened and gently sloping benches separated by crevices and channels	+1.0 to +1.3
Woods Cove (WDS)	33° 31' 42" N 117° 46' 05" W	Tso	Flattened benches separated by channels	+1.0 to +1.5
Victoria Beach (VIC)	33° 31' 11" N 117° 45' 52" W	Tso	Flattened benches separated by channels	+1.2 to +1.5
Treasure Island (TRI)	33° 30' 48" N 117° 45' 33" W	Tso	Gently sloping benches separated by tidal pools and channels	+1.1 to +1.3
Thousand Steps (THS)	33° 29' 55" N 117° 44' 35" W	Tso	Granitic boulders, including larger, horizontal rocks supporting rockweeds, separated by channels	+0.8 to +1.1
†Monarch Bay (MBY)	33° 29' 03" N 117° 43' 56" W	Tso	Flattened, benches with occasional channels and tidal pools	+0.7 to +1.2
†Dana Point (DPT)	33° 27' 35" N 117° 42' 52" W	Tso	Granitic boulders mixed with flattened benches	+0.9 to +1.3

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †. Remaining sites were all accorded similar MPA status in 1994 but sites were not signed and the public was largely unaware of this change in status during the study.

<sup>b</sup> See Figure 1 for site locations.

<sup>c</sup> Tm, Monterey Formation in the Tertiary Period; Tso, San Onofre Breccia in the Tertiary Period.

invertebrates has been prohibited for more than 25 yr (McArdle 1997). The remaining four sites were accorded similar MPA status on 1 January 1994. Previous research (Murray 1998, Murray et al. 1999) has shown that the extraction of intertidal invertebrates is common throughout the region and occurs even in these long-standing MPAs.

### *Environmental Parameters*

Selected environmental parameters were investigated to determine possible sources of among-site variation in the structure of subcanopy communities. The tidal heights of all sampled areas were determined using standard surveying techniques and reference points established at each site using predicted tidal data. Variation in wave exposure was estimated by quantifying maximum wave force using a modification of procedures described by Bell and Denny (1994). Three wave force meters, separated by at least 2.0 m, were deployed at each site on days when local wave

conditions were judged to be representative of the study area. Assessments were performed simultaneously at multiple sites (3–6), including a reference site at Crystal Cove, between 19 and 25 December 1996, and 30 April and 11 June 1997. Meters were placed at each site on at least three different days during each assessment period and were deployed during flood tide and retrieved the following morning. Upon retrieval, the maximum wave force was obtained from calibration tables developed for each meter. Sand movement interferes with hydrodynamic drag on the transducer housing and can affect acceleration of the drogue ball (Bell and Denny 1994). Hence, after deployment, estimates of sand accumulation were made for each meter using an arbitrary ranking system ranging from 0 to 10: 0 indicated the absence of sand, and 10 indicated that sand completely filled the transducer housing. Wave force measurements were accepted only when sand values were less than five. Data were analyzed using both the measured wave force velocity

TABLE 2

Patterns of Human Visitation during Low Tides ( $\leq +1.0$  ft [0.3 m]) at the Study Sites: Listed Are Shoreline Spans for the Study Areas Within Each Site and Numbers of Low-Tide Visitors

Site <sup>a</sup> (Abbreviation)	Shoreline Span (Linear m)	Visitors per 10-min Observation <sup>b</sup> (Annual Mean)	Visitors per 10 m of Shoreline	Ranks for Visitor Disturbance <sup>c</sup>
†Crystal Cove (CRC)	87.8	2.6	0.30	5
†Shaw's Cove (SHW)	209.4	7.4	0.35	4
Woods Cove (WDS)	78.2	7.4	0.95	1
Victoria Beach (VIC)	100.4	4.4	0.44	3
Treasure Island (TRI)	61.7	3.0	0.49	2
Thousand Steps (THS)	53.9	1.6	0.30	5
†Monarch Bay (MBY)	73.5	0.4	0.05	8
†Dana Point (DPT)	321.0	8.8	0.27	7

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers of visitors are based on five 10-min observations made four days per month from February 1995 through January 1996 (see text for explanation).

<sup>c</sup> Ranks for visitor disturbance are based on numbers per 10-min period per 10 m of shoreline.

(m sec<sup>-1</sup>) and velocities standardized using values recorded during the same tidal cycle at the Crystal Cove reference site. Because both methods yielded highly similar results, only actual measured velocities are reported here.

Sand scour and deposition are important components shaping intertidal community structure in southern California (Murray and Bray 1993). Because sand movements are transitory and difficult to quantify (Stewart 1983, Trowbridge 1996), three methods were used to determine the degree of sand influence at each site: (1) sand cover was estimated for sampled quadrats; (2) sand accumulation was recorded in wave force housings; and (3) sites were ranked based on qualitative observations of the amount of sand present throughout the study period. Sand cover was estimated for 10 randomly distributed quadrats in the *Silvetia compressa* assemblage at each site during both autumn 1995 and spring 1996. Cover estimates were made directly in the field using a random point contact method described later in this section, or in the laboratory by inspecting video records of quadrats taken with a Hi-8 mm camcorder (Sony Hi-8 CCD-VX3). Sand accumulation within wave force meters was ranked as described previously and the median value for each site determined. Last, sites were ranked

using subjective notes detailing sand presence over all seasons and tidal cycles over the 3-yr study period.

The study sites experience different and generally high levels of human use throughout the year (Murray 1998, Murray et al. 1999; Table 2). Data depicting the levels of human visitation were available for each site based on studies performed from February 1995 to January 1996 (Murray et al. 1999; S.N.M., unpubl. data). In these studies, the number of visitors at low tide was determined over a prescribed linear section of shoreline four times per month for 12 consecutive months. All observations were made between dawn and dusk during lower low tides ( $\leq 1.0$  ft [0.3 m] with reference to MLLW [Mean Lower Low Water]). During each observation period, the number of shoreline visitors was determined for five 10-min periods completed at approximately 30-min intervals beginning 1 hr before and ending 1 hr after the predicted time of low water. Site observations were evenly divided each month between weekend and midweek days. Based on these data, the number of shore visitors per 10 m of shoreline was calculated and used to represent the exposure of each site to human disturbance (Table 2). These studies revealed that Woods Cove, Victoria Beach, and Treasure

Island receive the greatest concentrations of shore visitors. Intermediate levels of human use occur at Crystal Cove, Shaw's Cove, and Thousand Steps, and Monarch Bay and Dana Point receive the lowest numbers of visitors.

### *Biological Sampling Methods*

Spatial variation in the structure of the *Silvetia compressa* subcanopy assemblage was assessed during the autumn and spring. At each site, twenty 0.3 by 0.5 m (0.15 m<sup>2</sup>) quadrats were randomly located on largely horizontal surfaces supporting at least 80% *S. compressa* canopy cover. The center of each quadrat was marked with a stainless-steel bolt, which was anchored into the substratum with drop anchors or marine epoxy. Ten quadrats were sampled during the autumn (23 September to 4 December 1995) and 10 during the spring (8 March to 7 June 1996), 5.5 to 6.5 months after autumn assessments.

Overstory rockweed cover was determined by visual scanning after subdividing each quadrat into four equal sections to facilitate estimates. The cover of seaweeds and sessile invertebrates in the understory assemblage was then sampled using a random point contact (RPC) method modeled after procedures described by Foster et al. (1991a). Points (100) were randomly located within quadrats using a leveled Plexiglas (=Perspex) platform (35 by 50 by 1.2 cm) containing 150 holes (3.1 mm diameter) spaced at 3.3-cm intervals and distributed in 10 rows and 15 columns. Platforms were leveled using three adjustable legs, positioned 0.2 to 0.5 m above the substratum, and a 3.0-mm-d stainless-steel rod was dropped through each hole. If multiple species were contacted by the path of a rod, then each was recorded once for that point. Percentage cover was calculated as the number of contacts divided by the total number of rods dropped on the quadrat. Therefore, it was possible for total quadrat cover to exceed 100%, as often occurs in complex, three-dimensional intertidal communities. Mobile invertebrate species were counted to obtain densities. Each quadrat also was carefully searched to obtain a full species inventory. Species present, but not contacted by rods,

were arbitrarily assigned a cover value of 0.5% to facilitate data analysis. Where morphologically similar species could not be consistently distinguished with accuracy (e.g., *Corallina pinnatifolia* and *C. vancouveriensis*, *Macclintockia scabra* and *Lottia conus*), they were combined and treated in our analyses as a single taxon. Species also were assigned to suprataxa (crustose algae, articulated coralline algae, frondose [branched and bladed] algae, sessile macroinvertebrates, and limpets + chitons) for further examination of distributional and abundance patterns. Attempts were made to correlate the abundances of suprataxa with each other and with variations in quadrat-scale environmental variables.

Species presence and abundance data formed the basis for the site and temporal comparisons. Site diversity was calculated separately for macrophytes and sessile macroinvertebrates based on cover data and for mobile macroinvertebrates using density data. Diversity was expressed as richness (S), defined here as the number of discriminated taxa, and as Shannon's *H'* Index (Shannon and Weaver 1949). Cluster analysis and non-metric multidimensional scaling (MDS) were used to examine spatial and temporal patterns in the subcanopy assemblage. Relationships between environmental data and site ordination patterns were probed by qualitatively comparing patterns in measured abiotic parameters with site ordination results.

### *Statistical Methods*

A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) model was used to test for differences in species abundances among sites. Patterns of spatial and temporal variation in wave force were examined using a two-way ANOVA design. Data sets were first examined for homoscedasticity using Cochran's test, transformed if necessary to meet variance requirements, and subjected to ANOVA when criteria for parametric analysis could be satisfied. ANOVA is robust to nonnormality (Underwood 1997); therefore, departures from normality were not considered reason to reject parametric procedures. When the homoscedasticity criterion could not be met by

transformation and variance departures were judged to be large, a randomization test was used to test the null hypothesis of no difference among groups in lieu of a one-way ANOVA model. As suggested by Manly (1997), random reassignment of the data was repeated 1000 times for setting  $\alpha$  at 0.05.

Regional differences in species abundances between the autumn and spring sampling periods were further analyzed using a paired  $t$ -test with the mean values for each site serving as the paired replicates; however, if variance equality could not be satisfied, Welch's approximate  $t$  was employed. This is a more conservative and reliable test than the traditional  $t$ -test under these circumstances (Quinn and Keough 2002). The non-parametric Spearman's correlation procedure was used to identify relationships between suprataxa and between suprataxa and abiotic variables (quadrat sand cover and tidal height) using the full set of quadrat samples ( $n = 160$ ) and between diversity values and environmental parameters using mean site values ( $n = 8$ ).

Among-site and sampling period variations in the structure of the *Silvetia compressa* understory assemblage were analyzed by cluster analysis and MDS ordination. Mean cover of subcanopy macrophytes and macro-invertebrates was calculated for each site for both autumn 1995 and spring 1996. Dendrograms depicting autumn and spring site and species clusters were constructed from association matrices based on the Bray-Curtis similarity index (Bray and Curtis 1957) using the unweighted pair group average clustering algorithm. The similarity percentages (SIMPER) procedure (Clarke and Warwick 2001) was used to examine the contributions of individual species to within-group similarity and between-group dissimilarity. Ordinations by MDS of the eight sites were performed using both cover (seaweeds and sessile invertebrates) and density (mobile invertebrates) data. Untransformed cover data were used for both cluster and MDS analyses, and density data were standardized to produce relative abundances before performing MDS. Because the data sets contained a very large number of rare (low-abundance) spe-

cies, only the 25 most abundant taxa were used for the cluster and MDS analyses.

ANOSIM tests (Clarke and Green 1988) were used to assess differences between longstanding and recently established MPAs (one-way ANOSIM) and among sites and between the seasonal sampling periods (two-way crossed ANOSIM) using community cover and density data for all taxa. Separate analyses were performed to test for seasonal differences in the biotic assemblages of the two MPA site groups because of the very large number of permutations contained in the data sets. Symbols scaled in size according to the values of tested environmental variables were superimposed on the cover and density MDS ordinations to qualitatively examine relationships between site patterns and environmental parameters using routines provided by PRIMER.

All univariate statistical analyses were performed using BIOSTAT I computer programs (Pimentel and Smith 1990). Multivariate statistical procedures and diversity calculations were executed using PRIMER (Clarke and Gorley 2001, Clarke and Warwick 2001).

## RESULTS

### *Abiotic Variables*

Maximum wave force differed significantly among sites, with an interaction between site and season (Table 3). The greatest mean forces were recorded at Woods Cove, Victoria Beach, and Treasure Island, the three sites located in the central part of the study region (Figure 1). Lowest forces occurred at Crystal Cove and Shaw's Cove, the two most north-western sites. Greater wave force was measured during spring at all sites except Victoria Beach and Treasure Island, where maximum wave force was greatest during autumn. Thousand Steps was exposed to the greatest overall sand influence; high sand influence also occurred at Monarch Bay and Shaw's Cove (Table 4). Least sand influence occurred at Treasure Island, Woods Cove, and Victoria Beach, the same three sites exposed to the greatest wave energy.

TABLE 3  
Maximum Wave Force at the Study Sites as Determined by Described Methodologies

Maximum Wave Force <sup>b</sup>					
Site <sup>a</sup>	Autumn 1996		Spring 1997		Average
	<i>n</i>	(m sec <sup>-1</sup> )	<i>n</i>	(m sec <sup>-1</sup> )	(m sec <sup>-1</sup> )
†Crystal Cove	17	4.63 ± 0.08	19	5.12 ± 0.10	4.89 ± 0.08
†Shaw's Cove	6	4.66 ± 0.27	8	5.00 ± 0.21	4.86 ± 0.17
Woods Cove	6	6.60 ± 0.46	6	7.84 ± 1.02	7.22 ± 0.57
Victoria Beach	10	7.55 ± 0.40	11	6.20 ± 0.47	6.84 ± 0.34
Treasure Island	9	6.45 ± 0.22	7	5.95 ± 0.51	6.23 ± 0.25
Thousand Steps	5	4.65 ± 0.15	5	5.21 ± 0.17	4.93 ± 0.14
†Monarch Bay	4	4.79 ± 0.39	9	5.33 ± 0.25	5.17 ± 0.21
†Dana Point	9	4.48 ± 0.15	9	5.82 ± 0.42	5.15 ± 0.27
ANOVA results	df	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>		
Site	7,124	15.132	<0.001***		
Season	1,124	3.268	0.070 ns		
Site × Season	7,124	4.125	<0.001***		

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †.

<sup>b</sup> Two-way ANOVA models were used to analyze wave force data where both site and season were treated as fixed factors. Values reported are the means (±1 SE) for the indicated number of replicates, and the degrees of freedom (df) and *F* values for the ANOVA tests. Significant differences are indicated by asterisks: \*\*\*, *P* < 0.001.

TABLE 4  
Sand Influence at the Study Sites

Site <sup>a</sup>	Quadrat Sand Cover				Sand Accumulation in Wave Meters				Qualitative Evaluation of Sand Influence Rank	Overall Sand Influence Site Rank
	Autumn 1995 (%)	Spring 1996 (%)	Combined Autumn + Spring (%)	Site Rank	Autumn 1996 Rank	Spring 1997 Rank	Mean 1996–1997 Rank	Site Rank		
†Crystal Cove	10.0 ± 4.8	22.5 ± 4.7	16.3 ± 3.6	4	4	5.5	4.75	5	5	4.5
†Shaw's Cove	7.4 ± 3.0	14.4 ± 4.5	10.9 ± 2.8	6	4	3	3.5	3	3	3
Woods Cove	0.2 ± 0.2	0.8 ± 0.5	0.5 ± 0.3	8	4	5.5	4.75	5	6	7
Victoria Beach	21.9 ± 7.6	6.8 ± 2.7	14.4 ± 4.3	5	4	5.5	4.75	5	7	6
Treasure Island	3.2 ± 1.5	0.0	1.6 ± 0.8	7	7.5	8	7.75	8	8	8
Thousand Steps	31.1 ± 5.2	9.7 ± 4.8	20.4 ± 4.2	2	1	2	1.5	1	1	1
†Monarch Bay	19.1 ± 4.0	24.5 ± 5.0	21.8 ± 3.2	1	4	1	2.5	2	2	2
†Dana Point	16.4 ± 4.0	16.6 ± 5.7	16.5 ± 3.3	3	7.5	5.5	6.5	7	4	4.5

Note: Values reported are mean (±1 SE) sand cover estimated from quadrats, rankings based on median values for sand accumulation in wave meter housings, and qualitative evaluations of sand cover at the sites. See text for explanations. Overall site rankings are based on mean rankings of the three procedures.

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †.



TABLE 5  
Mean Rockweed Cover for the Study Sites

Seaweed Taxa	Sites <sup>a</sup>								Overall Mean
	†CRC	†SHW	WDS	VIC	TRI	THS	†MBY	†DPT	
Autumn 1995									
<i>Silvetia compressa</i> (J. Ag.) Serrão, Cho & Brawley									
Overstory canopy	94.3 (±2.6)	97.2 (±0.7)	80.2 (±2.2)	92.6 (±2.7)	87.5 (±4.3)	93.3 (±1.4)	98.9 (±0.6)	96.3 (±1.0)	<sup>1</sup> 92.5***
Understory holdfast	4.0 (±0.6)	4.6 (±0.5)	4.7 (±0.7)	7.6 (±1.2)	9.1 (±1.8)	5.8 (±0.9)	3.2 (±0.4)	5.5 (±0.9)	<sup>1</sup> 5.6**
Total <i>S. compressa</i> cover	98.3	101.8	84.9	100.2	96.6	99.1	102.1	101.8	98.1
<i>Hesperophycus californicus</i> Silva									
Overstory canopy		1.3			0.8				0.3
Understory holdfast					0.3		0.2		<0.1
Total cover		1.3			1.1		0.2		<0.1
Spring 1996									
<i>Silvetia compressa</i> (J. Ag.) Serrão, Cho & Brawley									
Overstory canopy	91.5 (±2.4)	84.5 (±3.1)	80.5 (±3.1)	90.2 (±1.9)	85.2 (±3.7)	74.4 (±2.8)	96.5 (±1.0)	90.8 (±1.9)	86.7***
Understory holdfast	5.7 (±0.9)	3.9 (±0.5)	4.8 (±0.5)	6.7 (±0.8)	6.6 (±1.0)	3.3 (±0.4)	3.6 (±0.7)	6.6 (±1.0)	5.2**
Total <i>S. compressa</i> cover	97.2	88.4	85.3	96.9	91.8	77.7	100.1	97.5	91.8
<i>Hesperophycus californicus</i> Silva									
Overstory canopy				0.2					<0.1
Understory holdfast				0.1					<0.1
Total cover				0.3					

Note: Among-site differences assessed by one-way ANOVA. Values reported are site means (±1 SE) for 10 replicate plots. Superscript (¹) indicates data were transformed before analyses. Significant differences among sites are indicated by asterisks: \*\*,  $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*,  $P < 0.001$ .

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †.

### Rockweed Canopy Cover

*Silvetia compressa* canopy cover varied significantly among sites during both sampling periods (Table 5). Mean canopy cover was significantly greater in the autumn ( $t = 2.526$ ,  $P = 0.04$ ) but then decreased by spring at seven of the eight sites (Table 5). Greatest canopy cover occurred at Monarch Bay, a site with high sand influence and lowest levels of human disturbance, and the least cover at Woods Cove and Thousand Steps. *Hesperophycus californicus*, another upper-shore rockweed, was rare throughout the study area and occurred in quadrats at only four sites, where it never provided more than 1.3% cover (Table 5).

Morphologies of *Silvetia compressa* thalli were qualitatively similar except at Monarch

Bay where frond lengths two to three times greater than those found at our other study sites were common. Holdfast area ranged from 3.2 to 9.1% and varied significantly among sites; however, mean holdfast cover did not differ significantly between assessment periods ( $t = 0.755$ ,  $P = 0.52$ ). Monarch Bay thalli were the least densely aggregated and exhibited a canopy-to-holdfast cover ratio of nearly 30 to 1. The lowest canopy-to-holdfast cover ratios (<13:1) and the densest aggregations of *S. compressa* thalli were found at Victoria Beach and Treasure Island.

### Structure of the Understory Assemblage

Seaweeds contributed 71.2% of the subcanopy cover averaged over all sites compared with 23.8% sessile invertebrate cover. Mobile

TABLE 6  
Mean Cover for Abundant Crustose, Articulated Coralline, and Frondose Algae for Autumn 1995

Seaweed Taxa	Sites <sup>a</sup>								Mean ± SE
	†CRC	†SHW	WDS	VIC	TRI	THS	†MBY	†DPT	
Crustose algae									
<i>Pseudolithoderma nigra</i> Hollenb.	20.2	45.3	11.3	25.2	34.8	50.8	21.7	38.5	31.0 ± 4.8***
<i>Pseudolithophyllum neofarlowii</i> (Setch. & Mason) Adey	15.1	18.4	24.8	23.0	21.7	17.2	18.0	28.8	20.9 ± 1.6 ns
Unidentified crustose coralline	1.4	0.1	1.0		1.0	0.1	5.5		<sup>2</sup> 1.1 ± 0.8**
Unidentified Peyssonneliaceae/Hildenbrandiaceae	0.2	1.7	1.2	0.3	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.8 ± 0.2 ns
Other crustose species ( <i>n</i> = 3)	1.5	0.1	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.1		0.1	0.6 ± 0.5
Total crustose algae cover	38.4	65.6	39.2	49.0	59.4	69.1	45.8	67.7	54.3 ± 4.5
Articulated coralline algae									
<i>Corallina pinnatifolia</i> (Manza) Daws. and <i>C. vancouveriensis</i> Yendo	10.1	4.0	12.1	1.5	7.9	6.7	36.7	11.6	<sup>1</sup> 11.2 ± 3.9***
<i>Jania crassa</i> Lamour.	1.4						2.9	0.6	<sup>2</sup> 0.6 ± 0.7***
Other articulated coralline species ( <i>n</i> = 3)	0.1		0.1		0.1	0.1	0.2		0.2 ± 0.2
Total articulated coralline algae cover	11.6	4.0	12.2	1.5	8.0	6.8	39.8	12.2	12.0 ± 4.2
Frondose algae									
<i>Gelidium pusillum</i> (Stackh.) Le Jol. and <i>G. coulteri</i> Harv.	2.1	0.1	0.9	0.1		1.1	2.5	4.4	<sup>2</sup> 1.1 ± 0.5*
<i>Cryptopleura crispa</i> Kyl.	0.2	0.1	0.1		0.4	0.1	1.4	1.0	<sup>2</sup> 0.4 ± 0.2 ns
<i>Chondracanthus canaliculatus</i> (Harv.) Guiry	0.4	0.1	0.5			0.2	1.1	0.6	<sup>2</sup> 0.3 ± 0.2 ns
Other frondose algae species ( <i>n</i> = 26)	5.8	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.4	1.1	2.7	2.8	1.8 ± 1.8
Total frondose algae cover	8.4	0.4	1.9	0.2	0.9	2.5	7.7	8.9	4.0 ± 3.5
Total understory seaweed cover	58.4	70.0	53.3	50.7	68.3	78.4	93.3	88.8	70.1 ± 5.6

Note: Superscripts indicate data were transformed before ANOVA analyses (<sup>1</sup>) or were subjected to a randomization test following evaluation of variance ratios (<sup>2</sup>). Only the *Gelidium pusillum* and *G. coulteri* data showed unequal population dispersions based on the ratio of the largest to the smallest variance so this randomization test result should be interpreted with caution. Significant differences among sites are indicated by asterisks: \*, *P* < 0.05; \*\*, *P* < 0.01; \*\*\*, *P* < 0.001.

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †.

invertebrates contributed an average understory density of 363.9 m<sup>-2</sup> over all sites.

**SEAWEEDS.** Mean seaweed cover in the subcanopy assemblage ranged from 50.7 to 94.4% and varied significantly among sites but did not differ between sampling periods (Tables 6, 7). Greatest cover was found at Monarch Bay, the site characterized by less-crowded aggregations of larger *Silvetia com-*

*pressa* thalli. Least cover occurred at Victoria Beach, a site that supported denser *S. compressa* aggregations and received higher wave force.

Of the 45 subcanopy seaweeds recorded during the study, three (*Pseudolithoderma nigra*, *Pseudolithophyllum neofarlowii*, and *Corallina pinnatifolia*/*C. vancouveriensis*) accounted for nearly two-thirds of total understory

TABLE 7  
Mean Cover for Abundant Crustose, Articulated Coralline, and Frondose Algae for Spring 1996

Seaweed Taxa	Sites <sup>a</sup>								Mean ± SE
	†CRC	†SHW	WDS	VIC	TRI	THS	†MBY	†DPT	
Crustose algae									
<i>Pseudolithoderma nigra</i> Hollenb.	29.8	32.0	14.3	35.3	41.6	43.4	15.5	36.6	31.0 ± 3.9**
<i>Pseudolithophyllum neofarlowii</i> (Setch. & Mason) Adey	21.0	22.2	19.1	19.3	21.8	10.2	25.1	20.4	19.9 ± 1.5 ns
Unidentified crustose coralline	1.3	5.1	4.2		1.2	0.1	2.6	1.6	<sup>2</sup> 2.0 ± 0.7***
Unidentified Peyssonneliaceae/Hildenbrandiaceae	0.4	3.5	3.6	1.5	0.6	2.7	1.0	1.8	<sup>1</sup> 1.9 ± 0.4*
Other crustose algal species (n = 3)	0.2	0.3	1.7			0.3	0.1	0.7	0.4 ± 0.5
Total crustose algae cover	52.7	63.1	42.9	56.1	65.2	56.7	44.3	61.1	55.2 ± 2.9
Articulated coralline algae									
<i>Corallina pinnatifolia</i> (Manza) Daws. and <i>C. vancouveriensis</i> Yendo	8.3	14.4	11.7	0.8	7.2	4.1	34.4	8.2	<sup>1</sup> 10.9 ± 3.7***
<i>Jania crassa</i> Lamour.	1.2						6.1	0.8	<sup>2</sup> 1.0 ± 1.7***
Other articulated coralline algal species (n = 2)		0.1					0.1		0.2 ± 0.2
Total articulated coralline algae cover	9.5	14.5	11.7	0.8	7.2	4.1	40.6	9.0	12.1 ± 4.3
Frondose algae									
<i>Gelidium pusillum</i> (Stackh.) Le Jol. and <i>G. coulteri</i> Harv.	2.8	1.6	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	2.5	3.2	<sup>1</sup> 1.1 ± 0.4**
<i>Chondracanthus canaliculatus</i> (Harv.) Guiry	0.6	0.9	0.6			0.2	0.8	0.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.4 ± 0.1 ns
<i>Pterocladia capillacea</i> (Gmel.) Santelices & Hommers.	0.5	0.1				0.1	1.5	0.7	<sup>2</sup> 0.3 ± 0.3**
<i>Cryptopleura crispa</i> Kyl.	0.3	0.2	0.1			0.3	1.6	0.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.3 ± 0.2***
<i>Corallophila eatoniana</i> (Farl.) Cho, Choi, Hansen & Boo DeToni and <i>C. sinicola</i> S. & G.	0.4	0.8	0.1			0.2	0.8		<sup>2</sup> 0.3 ± 0.2 ns
Other frondose algae species (n = 19)	3.2	1.8	0.5	0.1		1.7	2.3	0.7	1.4 ± 1.1
Total frondose algal cover	7.8	5.4	2.0	0.3	0.2	2.2	9.5	5.3	5.1 ± 3.5
Total understory seaweed cover	70.0	83.0	56.6	57.2	72.6	63.0	94.4	75.4	72.4 ± 4.6

Note: Superscripts indicate data were transformed before ANOVA analyses (<sup>1</sup>) or were subjected to a randomization test following evaluation of variance ratios (<sup>2</sup>). All data sets subjected to randomization testing showed equal population dispersions based on the ratio of the largest to the smallest variance. Significant differences among sites are indicated by asterisks: \*,  $P < 0.05$ ; \*\*,  $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*,  $P < 0.001$ .

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †.

cover (Tables 6, 7). No other taxon averaged more than 2% cover over the eight sites. The fleshy crust *Pseudolithoderma nigra* was the only species observed in all sampled quadrats and contributed mean cover ranging from 11.3% at Woods Cove to 50.8% at Thousand Steps. The next most abundant species was the coralline crust *P. neofarlowii*, which ranged from 10.2% (Thousand Steps) to 28.8% (Dana Point) cover.

Cover of the three seaweed suprataxa and most seaweed populations varied significantly among sites (Tables 6, 7) but not between autumn and spring ( $t$ -tests;  $P > 0.05$ ). The most abundant component of the subcanopy community was the crustose algal group, which contributed cover ranging from 38.4% at Crystal Cove to 69.1% at Thousand Steps (Tables 6, 7). The articulated coralline algal group was the second largest contributor

to understory cover, averaging ca. 12% over all sites. Articulated coralline cover varied greatly among sites, ranging from only 0.8% at Victoria Beach to 40.6% at Monarch Bay (Tables 6, 7). A significant but weak negative correlation ( $r = -0.20$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) was found between articulated coralline and crustose algal cover, suggesting that crustose algae became more abundant when cover of articulated corallines was reduced beneath the *S. compressa* canopy. The frondose algal group consisted of far more species (34) than any other seaweed group, but averaged only 4.6% cover per site. Frondose algal cover showed as much as a sevenfold difference among sites, with greatest cover at Monarch Bay. A positive correlation ( $r = 0.66$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) was found between articulated coralline and frondose algal cover, possibly because of the large number of small algal epiphytes growing on *Corallina* spp.

**SESSILE INVERTEBRATES.** The mean cover of the sessile invertebrate group ranged from 5.8 to 54.5% and varied significantly among sites (Tables 8, 9) but not between sampling periods ( $t = -0.438$ ,  $P = 0.68$ ). Greatest cover was found at Woods Cove, whereas least cover occurred at Thousand Steps in the autumn and Shaw's Cove in the spring, both sites subjected to high sand influence (Tables 8, 9). A significant negative correlation ( $r = -0.48$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) was found between sessile invertebrate and crustose algal cover, suggesting that these groups might compete for subcanopy space.

Of the 20 sessile macroinvertebrates, the four most abundant species contributed an average of 20.2% of the annualized understory cover. These were the sandy tubeworm *Phragmatopoma californica*, the mussel *Mytilus californianus*, the acorn barnacles *Chthamalus fissus*/*C. dalli*, and the sea anemone *Anthopleura elegantissima* (Tables 8, 9). Cover of *P. californica* varied widely among sites, ranging from 0.8% at Thousand Steps (autumn) to 26.3% (autumn) at Woods Cove (Table 9). During both assessment periods, Thousand Steps had low *P. californica* cover, high crustose algal cover, and high sand influence. High *P. californica* cover corresponded with low sand influence and high wave force at

Woods Cove and Treasure Island. Cover of *Mytilus californianus* was greatest at Victoria Beach and Woods Cove, two of the more wave-exposed sites. Of the sessile macroinvertebrates, only *Anthopleura elegantissima* showed significant differences in cover ( $t = -2.557$ ,  $P = 0.04$ ) between the two sampling periods.

**MOBILE INVERTEBRATES.** Mobile invertebrate densities in the understory habitat ranged from 125.4 to 637.7 m<sup>-2</sup> (Tables 8, 9). The three most abundant mobile invertebrates (*Littorina scutulata*, *Lepidochitona hartwegii*, and *Macclintockia scabra*/*Lottia conus*) accounted for nearly 60% of all individuals. Only two other taxa (*Lottia strigatella* and *Nuttallina fluxa*/*N. californica*) averaged densities greater than 20 m<sup>-2</sup> across the eight sites. Greatest mobile invertebrate densities occurred at Shaw's Cove in the autumn and Woods Cove in the spring, sites that supported high numbers of the periwinkle *Littorina scutulata* and the limpets *Macclintockia scabra* and *Lottia conus*. Lowest mobile invertebrate densities occurred at Thousand Steps in the autumn and Monarch Bay in the spring, both sites with low densities of *L. scutulata*. Densities of most mobile invertebrate populations varied significantly among sites (Tables 8, 9) but not between assessment periods ( $t$ -tests;  $P > 0.05$ ). Limpet and chiton densities were least at Dana Point and Monarch Bay, the southernmost sites, and greatest at Crystal Cove and Woods Cove. Lower densities of limpets and chitons generally occurred at the more sand-influenced sites. A weak, positive correlation ( $r = 0.30$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) was found between sessile invertebrate cover and limpet and chiton densities.

### Biological Diversity

A total of 111 taxa was distinguished at the eight sites during the study, including 47 algae and 20 sessile and 44 mobile macroinvertebrates (see Appendix). An average of 27 macrophytes and sessile macroinvertebrates and 19 mobile macroinvertebrates was found across all sites. The number of macrophytes and sessile macroinvertebrates ranged

TABLE 8  
Mean Cover and Density for Abundant Sessile and Mobile Macroinvertebrates for Autumn 1995

	Sites <sup>a</sup>								
Macroinvertebrate Taxa	†CRC	†SHW	WDS	VIC	TRI	THS	†MBY	†DPT	Mean ± SE
Sessile invertebrate cover									
<i>Phragmatopoma californica</i> (Fewkes, 1889)	21.5	3.3	21.6	9.0	22.0	1.7	14.4	6.6	<sup>1</sup> 12.5 ± 3.0***
<i>Mytilus californianus</i> Conrad, 1837	3.4	0.9	8.1	8.3	1.7	1.2	1.4	0.4	<sup>2</sup> 3.1 ± 1.1**
<i>Chtbamalus fissus</i> Darwin, 1854 and <i>C. dalli</i> Pilsbry, 1916	2.7	2.8	3.5	5.6	2.9	0.6	1.4	2.6	<sup>1</sup> 2.7 ± 0.5 ns
<i>Anthopleura elegantissima</i> (Brandt, 1835)	3.8	1.6	0.7	2.3	0.7	2.0	1.2	0.9	<sup>1</sup> 1.6 ± 0.4**
<i>Septifer bifurcatus</i> (Conrad, 1837) and <i>Brachidontes adamsianus</i> (Dunker, 1857)	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.6	0.2	0.4	0.6	<sup>1</sup> 1.1 ± 0.2 ns
<i>Tetracita rubescens</i> Darwin, 1854		0.1	3.7	0.3	1.9				<sup>2</sup> 0.7 ± 0.6***
<i>Balanus glandula</i> Darwin, 1854	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.1			<sup>2</sup> 0.3 ± 0.2 ns
Other sessile invertebrates (Number of taxa)	(5)	(6)	(8)	(2)	(4)	(0)	(6)	(1)	(10)
Combined cover	1.6	1.3	1.5	0.4	0.6	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.2 ± 0.3
Total sessile invertebrate cover	34.8	11.3	40.6	28.7	31.5	5.8	20.4	11.2	23.0 ± 4.5
Mobile invertebrate density (no. m <sup>-2</sup> )									
<i>Littorina scutulata</i> Gould, 1849	50.0	285.5	130.1	214.1	150.7	8.0	17.3	70.7	<sup>1</sup> 115.8 ± 34.7***
<i>Lepidochitona hartwegii</i> (Carpenter, 1855)	62.7	86.7	42.7	26.7	42.0	40.0	52.0	50.7	50.4 ± 6.4*
<i>Macclintockia scabra</i> (Gould, 1864) and <i>Lottia conus</i> (Test, 1945)	32.7	49.4	19.3	38.7	97.4	16.7	44.0	17.3	<sup>1</sup> 39.4 ± 9.4***
<i>Nuttallina fluxa</i> (Carpenter, 1864) and <i>N. californica</i> (Reeve, 1847)	17.3	23.3	48.7	26.7	42.0	6.7	28.7	16.0	26.2 ± 4.9**
<i>Lottia strigatella</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	75.4	22.0	27.3	15.3	34.0	17.3	12.7	2.7	<sup>1</sup> 25.8 ± 7.8***
<i>Lottia pelta</i> (Rathke, 1833)	26.7	14.0	40.0	13.3	32.0	26.0	5.3	1.3	<sup>1</sup> 19.8 ± 4.8***
<i>Acanthina spirata</i> (de Blainville, 1832)	46.7	30.0	16.7	14.0	11.3	3.3	27.3	0.7	<sup>1</sup> 18.8 ± 5.4***
<i>Pagurus samuelis</i> (Stimpson, 1857)	14.7	31.3	1.3		3.3		12.7	4.0	<sup>1</sup> 8.4 ± 3.8***
<i>Tegula gallina</i> (Forbes, 1852)	0.7	2.0				3.3	2.0	33.4	<sup>2</sup> 5.2 ± 4.0***
<i>Nucella emarginata</i> (Deshayes, 1839)	2.0	4.0	10.7	12.0	6.7				<sup>2</sup> 4.4 ± 1.7*
<i>Littorina keenae</i> Rosewater, 1978		6.0	8.7	0.7	4.7	0.7		0.7	<sup>2</sup> 2.7 ± 1.2 ns
<i>Epitonium tinctum</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	9.3		1.3	1.3	0.7	1.3	4.0	1.3	<sup>2</sup> 2.4 ± 1.1 ns
<i>Macron lividus</i> (A. Adams, 1855)	4.0	8.7	0.7		6.0				<sup>2</sup> 2.4 ± 1.2**
<i>Lottia limatula</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	1.3	8.0	1.3	3.3		0.7		1.3	<sup>2</sup> 2.0 ± 0.9 ns
<i>Tegula eiseni</i> Jordan, 1936	0.7	0.7				0.7	11.3		<sup>2</sup> 1.7 ± 1.4***
<i>Mopalia muscosa</i> (Gould, 1846)	2.0	0.7	0.7	4.7	2.7			0.7	1.4 ± 0.6*
<i>Conus californicus</i> Reeve, 1844	1.3						7.3	1.3	<sup>2</sup> 1.2 ± 0.9**
<i>Pachygrapsus crassipes</i> Randall, 1839	2.7	1.3	1.3	0.7	1.3		1.3		<sup>1</sup> 1.1 ± 0.3 ns
Other mobile invertebrates (Number of taxa)	(1)	(6)	(2)	(5)	(4)	(1)	(12)	(3)	(17)
Combined densities	1.4	8.0	1.4	10.2	2.9	0.7	15.6	7.4	5.9 ± 1.9
Total mobile invertebrate density	351.6	581.6	352.2	381.7	437.7	125.4	241.5	209.5	335.1 ± 50.4

Note: Superscript indicates data were transformed before ANOVA analyses (<sup>1</sup>) or were subjected to a randomization test following evaluation of variance ratios (<sup>2</sup>). Only the *Mytilus californianus* cover data showed unequal population dispersions based on the ratio of the largest to the smallest variance so this randomization test result should be interpreted with caution. Significant differences among sites are indicated by asterisks: \*,  $P < 0.05$ ; \*\*,  $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*,  $P < 0.001$ .

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †.

TABLE 9

Mean Cover and Density for Abundant Sessile and Mobile Macroinvertebrates for Spring 1996

	Sites <sup>a</sup>								
Macroinvertebrate Taxa	†CRC	†SHW	WDS	VIC	TRI	THS	†MBY	†DPT	Mean ± SE
Sessile invertebrate cover									
<i>Phragmatopoma californica</i> (Fewkes, 1889)	11.9	4.3	26.3	14.2	19.7	0.8	15.8	7.8	<sup>1</sup> 12.6 ± 2.9***
<i>Chthamalus fissus</i> Darwin, 1854 and <i>C. dalli</i> Pilsbry	3.1	1.1	7.5	1.0	0.6	1.4	1.0	5.9	<sup>1</sup> 2.7 ± 0.9***
<i>Anthopleura elegantissima</i> (Brandt, 1835)	5.3	1.4	3.2	2.6	1.1	3.4	0.3	3.4	<sup>1</sup> 2.6 ± 0.6***
<i>Mytilus californianus</i> Conrad, 1837	1.4	0.5	7.0	2.8	0.8	3.6	1.1	2.7	<sup>1</sup> 2.5 ± 0.7***
<i>Septifer bifurcatus</i> (Conrad, 1837) and <i>Brachidontes adamsianus</i> (Dunker, 1857)	1.2	0.5	3.1	3.5	2.1	1.0	0.4	0.7	<sup>1</sup> 1.5 ± 0.4***
<i>Tetracitella rubescens</i> Darwin, 1854	0.1	0.3	4.2	0.8	1.6		0.1	0.1	<sup>2</sup> 0.9 ± 0.6***
<i>Pseudochama exogyra</i> (Conrad, 1837)	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.4 ± 0.1***
<i>Balanus glandula</i> Darwin, 1854	0.4		0.9		0.1	0.2		0.4	<sup>2</sup> 0.3 ± 0.1*
Other sessile invertebrates (Number of taxa)	(6)	(5)	(6)	(3)	(5)	(0)	(5)	(2)	(10)
Combined cover	0.6	0.8	2.0	0.9	1.7	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.9 ± 0.2
Total sessile invertebrate cover	24.9	9.5	54.5	25.8	27.7	10.5	19.6	21.5	24.3 ± 4.9
Mobile invertebrate density (no. m <sup>-2</sup> )									
<i>Littorina scutulata</i> Gould, 1849	24.0	45.4	138.1	230.1	268.8	102.1	7.3	138.1	<sup>1</sup> 119.2 ± 33.5***
<i>Lepidochitona hartwegii</i> (Carpenter, 1855)	83.4	44.7	68.0	58.0	54.0	44.0	20.7	54.0	53.4 ± 6.5*
<i>Macclintockia scabra</i> (Gould, 1864) and <i>L. conus</i> (Test, 1945)	68.0	48.7	136.1	24.7	59.4	24.0	18.7	12.7	<sup>1</sup> 44.3 ± 14.3***
<i>Lottia strigatella</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	106.4	14.7	107.4	14.7	22.0	55.4	10.7	10.0	<sup>1</sup> 42.6 ± 14.9***
<i>Nuttallina fluxa</i> (Carpenter, 1864) and <i>N. californica</i> (Reeve, 1847)	26.7	27.3	82.7	10.7	60.0	17.3	18.7	14.0	32.2 ± 9.0***
<i>Lottia pelta</i> (Rathke, 1833)	28.0	13.3	41.4	24.0	22.0	14.0	3.3	6.0	19.0 ± 4.4**
<i>Tegula gallina</i> (Forbes, 1852)	3.3	13.3				6.0	24.7	86.0	<sup>2</sup> 16.7 ± 12.1***
<i>Acanthina spirata</i> (de Blainville, 1832)	16.7	14.0	8.7	9.3	20.0	7.3	18.7	15.3	13.8 ± 1.7 ns
<i>Pagurus samuelis</i> (Stimpson, 1857)	14.0	34.0	3.3		44.0	0.7	6.0	2.0	<sup>2</sup> 13.0 ± 6.1*
<i>Nucella emarginata</i> (Deshayes, 1839)	0.7	1.3	12.7	0.7	11.3	15.3		2.0	<sup>2</sup> 5.4 ± 2.3***
<i>Epitonium tinctum</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	13.3	2.0	1.3	8.7	0.7	6.7		3.3	<sup>1</sup> 4.5 ± 1.6 ns
<i>Lottia limatula</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	1.3	4.0	13.3	4.0	1.3		4.7	6.0	4.3 ± 1.4**
<i>Pachygrapsus crassipes</i> Randall, 1839	4.7	0.7	11.3	6.0	6.0	1.3	0.7	0.7	<sup>1</sup> 3.9 ± 1.4***
<i>Tegula funebris</i> (A. Adams, 1855)	8.0	1.3	0.7			4.0	1.3	6.7	<sup>1</sup> 2.8 ± 1.1**
<i>Lottia</i> spp. (juveniles)		2.7	6.0	2.0			9.3		<sup>2</sup> 2.5 ± 1.2 ns
<i>Conus californicus</i> Reeve, 1844	4.0	0.7				1.3	6.0	1.3	<sup>2</sup> 1.7 ± 0.8 ns
<i>Macron lividus</i> (A. Adams, 1855)	6.0		0.7		5.3				<sup>2</sup> 1.5 ± 1.0*
<i>Mopalia muscosa</i> (Gould, 1846)	4.0	2.7	0.7	1.3	0.7	2.0	0.7		<sup>1</sup> 1.5 ± 0.4 ns
<i>Tegula eiseni</i> Jordan, 1836					0.7	0.7	9.3	0.7	<sup>2</sup> 1.4 ± 1.5***
<i>Fissurella volcano</i> Reeve, 1849	2.0	2.7	0.7				2.0	0.7	<sup>2</sup> 1.0 ± 0.3 ns
Other mobile invertebrates (Number of taxa)	(1)	(2)	(6)	(4)	(4)	(0)	(5)	(4)	(15)
Combined densities	1.3	2.0	4.7	5.3	3.3	0.0	4.0	4.0	3.1 ± 0.6
Total mobile invertebrate density	415.5	277.5	637.7	399.5	579.6	302.2	166.8	363.5	392.8 ± 54.9

Note: Superscript indicates data were transformed before ANOVA analyses (<sup>1</sup>) or were subjected to a randomization test following evaluation of variance ratios (<sup>2</sup>). All data sets subjected to randomization testing showed equal population dispersions based on the ratio of the largest to the smallest variance. Significant differences among sites are indicated by asterisks: \*,  $P < 0.05$ ; \*\*,  $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*,  $P < 0.001$ .

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †.

TABLE 10

Site Diversity Based on Macrophyte and Sessile Macroinvertebrate Cover and Mobile Macroinvertebrate Densities

Site <sup>a</sup>	S <sup>b</sup>			H' <sub>c</sub>		
	Autumn	Spring	Site Mean	Autumn	Spring	Site Mean
Cover						
†Crystal Cove	40	37	38.5	2.39	2.20	2.30
†Shaw's Cove	24	31	27.5	1.49	2.01	1.75
Woods Cove	34	28	31.0	2.15	2.39	2.27
Victoria Beach	16	16	16.0	1.83	1.66	1.74
Treasure Island	24	19	21.5	1.83	1.67	1.75
Thousand Steps	25	26	25.5	1.34	1.57	1.46
†Monarch Bay	30	32	31.0	2.08	2.10	2.09
†Dana Point	26	27	26.5	1.77	2.04	1.90
Density						
†Crystal Cove	18	19	18.5	2.21	2.23	2.22
†Shaw's Cove	22	20	21.0	1.83	2.34	2.08
Woods Cove	17	23	20.0	1.98	2.09	2.04
Victoria Beach	18	17	17.5	1.67	1.57	1.62
Treasure Island	18	19	18.5	1.94	1.85	1.90
Thousand Steps	13	16	14.5	1.92	2.04	1.98
†Monarch Bay	25	22	23.5	2.43	2.59	2.51
†Dana Point	17	21	19.0	1.87	1.90	1.89

<sup>a</sup> Sites located within intertidal MPAs designated between 1969 and 1972 are indicated by a †.

<sup>b</sup> Number of species.

<sup>c</sup> Shannon's Diversity Index.

from an average of 16 at Victoria Beach to 38.5 at Crystal Cove; the number of mobile macroinvertebrates ranged from 14.5 (Thousand Steps) to 23.5 (Monarch Bay) (Table 10).  $H'$  diversity values averaged 1.91 (macrophytes and sessile macroinvertebrates) and 2.03 (mobile macroinvertebrates). Highest  $H'$  diversity generally occurred at sites having the greatest richness.

# *Relationships between Biological Data and Environmental Parameters*

**QUADRAT-SCALE PATTERNS.** Quadrats located near the upper reaches of the *Silvetia compressa* assemblage had higher abundances of sessile invertebrates, as supported by the very weak positive but significant correlation between sessile invertebrate cover and relative vertical tidal position ( $r = 0.18$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). In contrast, significant, but weak, negative correlations were found between tidal position and articulated coralline ( $r = -0.35$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and frondose ( $r = -0.41$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) algal cover. Thus, the upper

boundaries of the assemblage were generally characterized by higher cover of sessile invertebrates, particularly acorn barnacles, whereas the lower portions supported greater cover of erect seaweeds.

Sand influence correlated with the abundances of understory algae and invertebrates. Quadrats with less sand had higher amounts of sessile invertebrate cover ( $r = -0.50$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and greater limpet and chiton densities ( $r = -0.45$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). In contrast, significant, but weak, positive correlations were found between sand cover and crustose ( $r = 0.28$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ), articulated coralline ( $r = 0.22$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ), and frondose ( $r = 0.48$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) algal cover.

**SITE-SCALE PATTERNS.** Diversity values failed to show significant correlations with any measured environmental variable, and cluster analysis and MDS results failed to produce clear site patterns (Figures 2, 3). Generally, the autumn and spring site data were more closely associated with each other than with other sites, and long-standing MPAs did not consistently form groups.

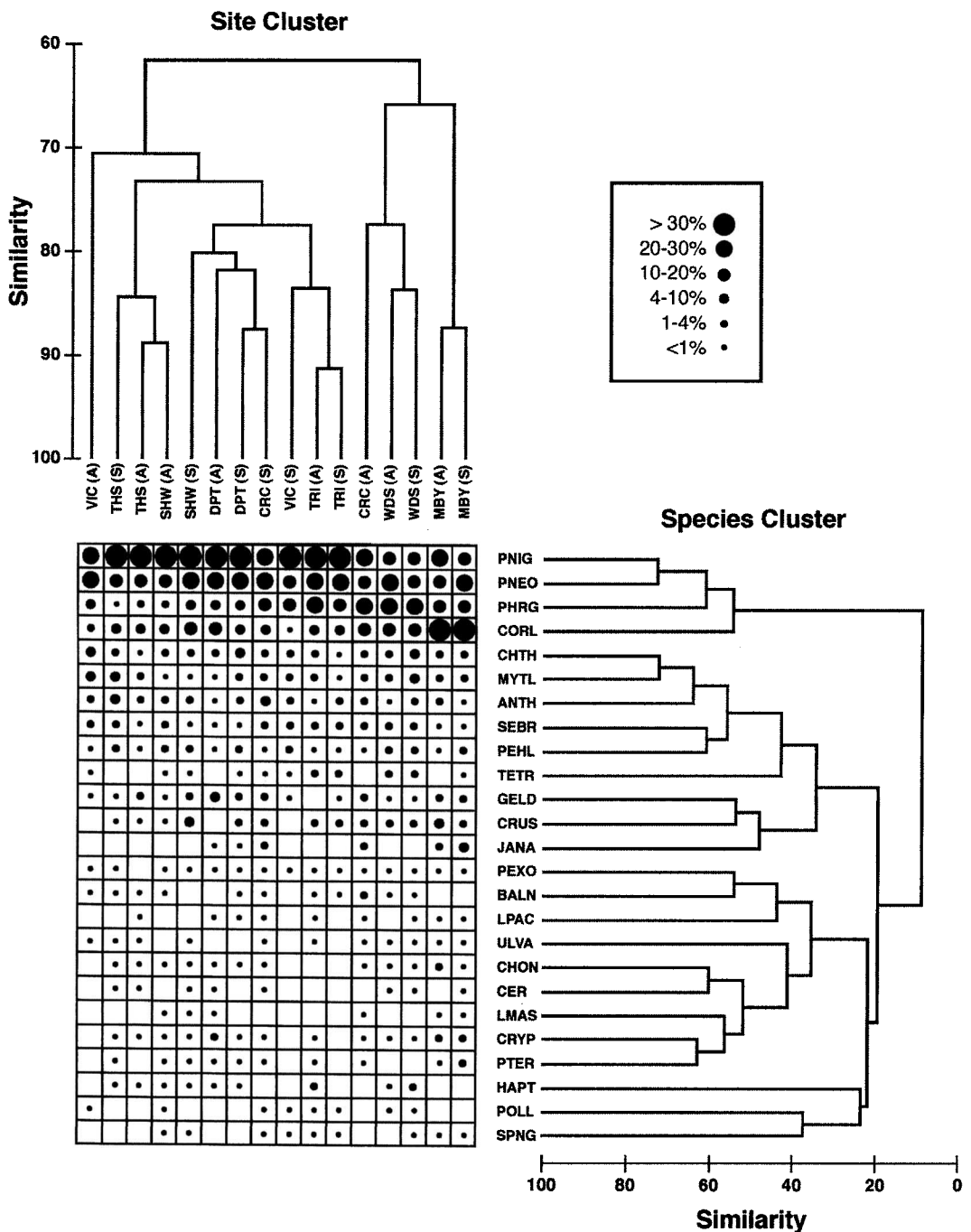


FIGURE 2. Results of hierarchical cluster analysis. See Table 1 for site abbreviations. A, autumn; S, spring. Species abbreviations: Macroinvertebrates: ANTH, *Anthopleura elegantissima*; BALN, *Balanus glandula*; CHTH, *Chthamalus dalli* and *C. fissus*; MYTL, *Mytilus californianus*; PHRG, *Phragmatopoma californica*; PEXO, *Pseudochama exogyra*; POLL, *Pollicipes polymerus*; SEBR, *Septifer bifurcatus* and *Brachidontes adamsianus*; TETR, *Tetraclita rubescens*. Seaweeds: CHON, *Chondracanthus canaliculatus*; CORL, *Corallina* spp.; CRUS, unidentified crustose coralline; CRYP, *Cryptopleura crista*; GELD, *Gelidium coulteri* and *G. pusillum*; HAPT, *Hapterophycus canaliculatus*; JANA, *Jania crassa*; LMAS, *Laurencia masoni*; LPAC, *Laurencia* spp.; PEHL, Peyssonneliaceae and Hildenbrandiaceae fleshy crusts; PNIG, *Pseudolithoderma nigra*; PNEO, *Pseudolithophyllum neofarlowii*; PTER, *Pterocladia capillacea*; CER, *Ceramium* spp.; ULVA, *Ulva californica*; SPNG, unidentified sponge.



However, all sampled communities were very similar to one another, with most clustering together at greater than 80% similarity (Figure 2). Moreover, based on SIMPER analyses, the abundances of only four taxa (*Pseudolithoderma nigra*, *Pseudolithophyllum neofarlowii*, *Phragmatopoma californica*, and *Corallina* spp.) contributed between 80.1 and 91.4% of the average within-group similarity and also were largely responsible for the dissimilarity between clusters. MDS analyses produced results similar to those obtained from cluster analysis (Figure 3). The more wave-exposed, least sand-influenced, and also more heavily human-influenced sites (Victoria Beach, Woods Cove, and Treasure Island) located relatively close together in both MDS ordinations and showed greatest separation from Monarch Bay. Although dominated by *P. nigra*, *P. neofarlowii*, *P. californica*, and *Corallina* spp., these sites had the highest cover of macroinvertebrates and generally the lowest cover of frondose algae.

ANOSIM tests failed to reveal significant differences between long-standing and recently established MPAs based on macrophyte and macroinvertebrate cover and mobile invertebrate densities (Table 11). Similar to results of population-level analyses (Tables 6–9), significant differences in community structure were detected among sites within both MPA groups. ANOSIM tests found significant differences in community composition between autumn and spring, with the exception of cover-based comparisons within the recently established MPA group.

#### DISCUSSION

Communities dominated by the rockweed *Silvetia compressa* commonly occur throughout southern California in upper, midshore habitats receiving protection from wave exposure (Ricketts et al. 1985, Murray and Bray 1993). For example, *S. compressa* (as *P. fastigiata*) ranked third in mean organic dry biomass among all intertidal seaweeds and macroinvertebrates sampled on southern California shores by Littler and colleagues in the 1970s (Littler 1980a,b, Littler et al. 1991). Yet, despite its common occurrence on

southern California shores, little is known about variation in species composition and abundances in the *S. compressa* understory assemblage, either at an individual site or among sites within a region.

#### Temporal Variation in *S. compressa* Cover

Cover of *Silvetia compressa* was consistently higher during autumn and lower during spring at our study sites. Similar summer/autumn peaks in abundance have been observed in southern (Gunnill 1980, Hill 1980) and central (Horn et al. 1983) California for *S. compressa*, and in southern California for the closely related furoid *Hesperophycus californicus* (as *H. harveyanus* [Oates 1981]). This pattern corresponds with a previous report (Littler et al. 1991) that the standing stocks of larger seaweeds grow and accumulate throughout the summer in southern California and decline through winter when desiccation stress corresponds with afternoon low tides. In the North Atlantic, intertidal furoids (mostly *Fucus* spp.) also have been reported to grow at highest rates (Mathieson et al. 1976, Niemeck and Mathieson 1976, Sideman and Mathieson 1983, Mathieson 1989) and to reach greatest cover (Printz 1950, Hjøhlman 1990, Gunnarsson and Ingólfsson 1995) from spring to late summer/early autumn. Generally, seasonal increases in the growth rates and standing stocks of these upper-shore furoids have been attributed to temporal changes in abiotic factors such as light, temperature, and the availability of nutrients, whereas decreases have been thought to be due to winter storms, desiccating conditions during tidal emersion, sediment inundation, and decreases in nutrients (Mathieson et al. 1976, Schonbeck and Norton 1978, Seapy and Littler 1982, Gunnill 1985, Hawkins and Hartnoll 1985, Gunnarsson and Ingólfsson 1995, Williams 1996).

#### Species Composition and Diversity in the Subcanopy Assemblage

**SEAWEED.** About 25% of the recorded seaweed species occurred in the *Silvetia compressa* understory assemblage at all eight sites,

# MDS Plots

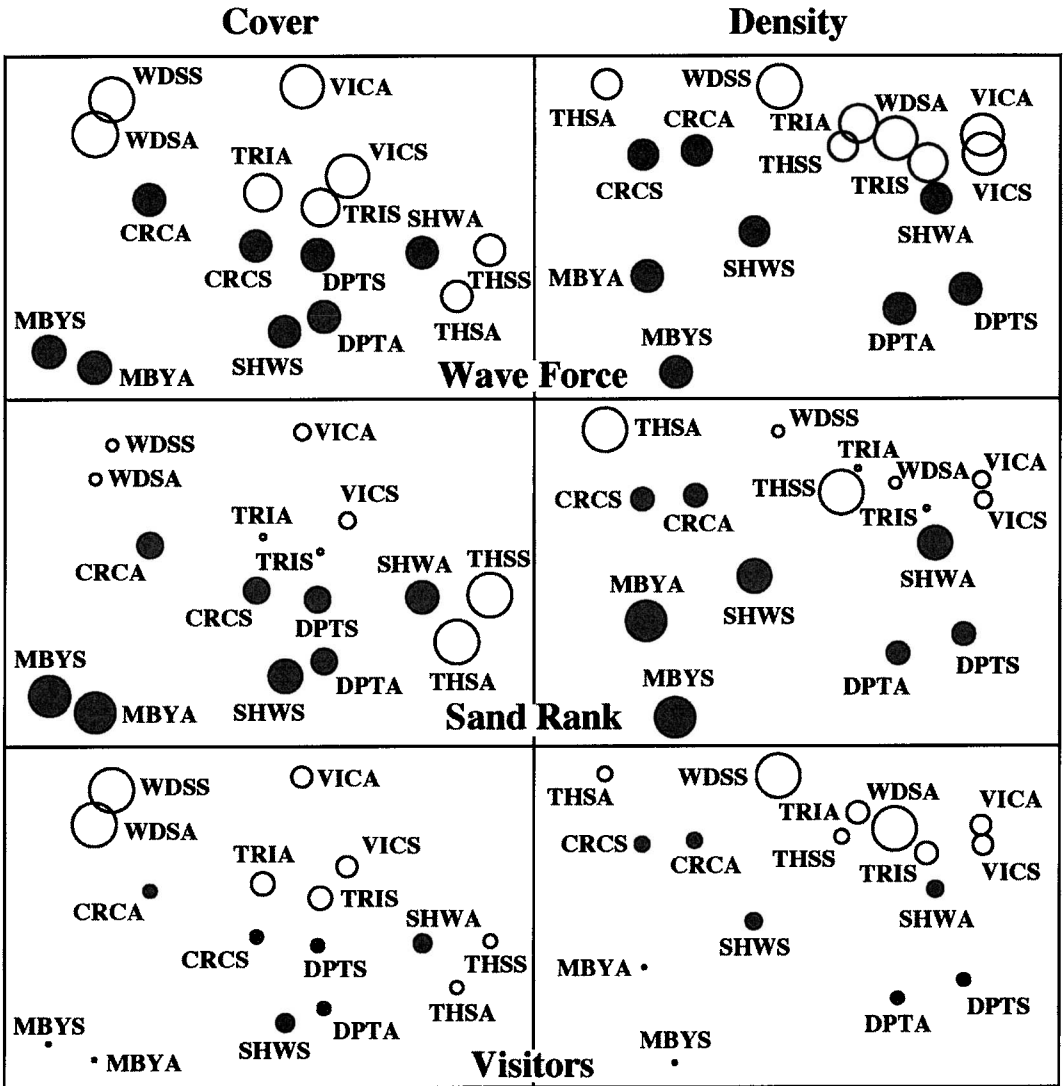


FIGURE 3. Results of MDS ordinations based on cover of seaweeds and sessile macroinvertebrates and densities of mobile macroinvertebrates. Size of circle representing sites indicates relative magnitude of the indicated environmental variable. Depicted are wave force as the mean maximum wave force measured for each site over two seasons, sand influence as site ranks, and visitor use as the mean numbers of visitors per 10 m of site shoreline. See text for details of analysis, Table 1 for site abbreviations (with addition of A for autumn or S for spring), and Tables 2–4 for measured environmental parameters. MDS analyses based on untransformed cover data and standardized density data using all sampled taxa. Stress = 0.07 Cover MDS; 0.10 Density MDS.

TABLE 11  
Summary of ANOSIM Test Results of Differences in Multivariate Structure

Test	R	P
Longstanding MPAs versus recently established MPAs		
Macrophyte and macroinvertebrate cover		
Autumn	0.094	0.257
Spring	0.125	0.143
Mobile macroinvertebrate densities		
Autumn	0.087	0.200
Spring	0.302	0.086
Site and season tests: Longstanding MPAs		
Macrophyte and macroinvertebrate cover		
Site	0.342	<0.001***
Season	0.104	<0.001***
Mobile macroinvertebrate densities		
Site	0.396	<0.001***
Season	0.167	<0.001***
Site and season tests: Recently established MPAs		
Macrophyte and macroinvertebrate cover		
Site	0.393	<0.001***
Season	0.033	0.144
Mobile macroinvertebrate densities		
Site	0.441	<0.001***
Season	0.214	<0.001***

Note: ANOSIM tests performed on untransformed cover and standardized density data for all sampled taxa. MPA tests based on a one-way ANOSIM model. Site and season tests based on a two-way crossed ANOSIM model. Significant test results are indicated by asterisks: \*\*\*,  $P < 0.001$ .

but only a few of these species dominated abundances at all sites. High cover of crustose algae beneath *S. compressa* fronds has been reported previously for rockweed communities in southern (Hill 1980) and central (Johnson and Brawley 1998) California. Crustose algae also characterize understory assemblages in intertidal rockweed communities elsewhere (Lewis 1964, Munda and Markham 1982) and appear to be dependent on canopy protection because they often fail to persist after canopy removal (Hawkins and Hartnoll 1985).

Although patchy and variable in abundance among sites, articulated coralline algae were commonly encountered in the *Silvetia compressa* understory assemblage. It is interesting that articulated corallines were more than three times more abundant at Monarch Bay, the site with the largest *S. compressa* thalli and with greatest spatial separation between individual plants. Both crustose and articulated coralline algae are resistant to distur-

bance from wave action (Norton et al. 1982), sand scour (Stewart 1982, 1983, Littler et al. 1983), and grazers (Littler and Littler 1980, Van Alstyne 1990) and may be favored beneath fucoid canopies where grazers are abundant (Hartnoll and Hawkins 1980, 1985, Schonbeck and Norton 1980, Hawkins and Hartnoll 1983b) and whiplash disturbance is high (Norton 1986, Raffaelli and Hawkins 1996). More susceptible to sources of disturbance (Littler and Littler 1980), frondose algal cover was much less abundant in the understory assemblage, and species occurred mostly as small saxicolous thalli or as epiphytes on articulated corallines.

MACROINVERTEBRATES. Total cover of sessile macroinvertebrates varied greatly among sites mostly due to differences in the abundance of *Phragmatopoma californica*, a tube-building polychaete. It is interesting that *P. californica*, a species that requires sand to build its tubes (Morris et al. 1980), was less abundant at the more sand-influenced of our

study sites. Compared with qualitative observations made on patches of adjacent rock, barnacle abundances were generally reduced beneath the *S. compressa* canopy, perhaps because of frond whiplash or the barrier presented by fronds to settlement of barnacle larvae (Stephenson 1939, Pyefinch 1943, Burrows and Lodge 1950, B. A. Menge 1976, Hawkins 1981, 1983, Hawkins and Hartnoll 1983a,b, Hartnoll and Hawkins 1985). Barnacle cover was highest at the upper edges of the *S. compressa* assemblage where fronds were thinnest, grazers least abundant, and periods of tidal emersion and desiccation stress were greatest. Interactions between fucoids, barnacles, and mobile invertebrate grazers are known to vary across environmental gradients and to account for spatial patchiness in rockweed communities (Hawkins and Hartnoll 1983b, 1985).

Mobile invertebrates in the understory assemblage primarily consisted of limpets, chitons, and littorines. Limpets aggregate under larger fucoid clumps (Hartnoll and Hawkins 1980, 1985, Schonbeck and Norton 1980, Hawkins and Hartnoll 1983b) and graze sporelings, reducing algal abundance. Littorines (*Littorina keenae* and *L. scutulata*) were the most abundant of the mobile macroinvertebrates in the understory assemblage but have much smaller body sizes than the North Atlantic *Littorina littorea*, which is an important grazer of understory algae in North Atlantic fucoid communities (J. L. Menge 1975, Lubchenco 1980, 1983, Barker and Chapman 1990, Norton et al. 1990).

The chiton *Lepidochitona hartwegii* and the limpet *Lottia pelta* were consistently found at our study sites in association with *S. compressa* fronds but were rarely observed at similar tidal elevations outside the rockweed canopy. In a previous study, *L. hartwegii* and *L. pelta* disappeared in quadrats after the removal of *S. compressa* fronds (Hill 1980). Thus, it appears that these species are strongly dependent on the *S. compressa* canopy to persist at this tidal level on southern California shores. Both species are believed to feed on *S. compressa* and other noncalcified algae (Connor 1976, Morris et al. 1980). Limpets and chi-

tons can reduce the abundances of erect, frondose algae beneath rockweed canopies (Lubchenco and Menge 1978), but the impact of these species and the smaller littorines on the structure of *S. compressa* understory communities is unknown.

**BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.** The subcanopy assemblages at the eight study sites consistently exhibited relatively low  $H'$  diversity. In contrast, the total number of seaweed and macroinvertebrate species found in this community at most sites was high. These findings support other comparable assessments of diversity in the southern California *Silvetia compressa* understory assemblage based on subcanopy macroalgal and macroinvertebrate populations (Hill 1980). Observations at our study sites, however, indicate that most species in the understory assemblage also occur outside the influence of *S. compressa* canopies where they occur in greater abundance. This corresponds with Gunnill's (1982) observation that only two of many species of small fauna occurred exclusively in association with *S. compressa* fronds.

#### *Temporal Variation in the Subcanopy Assemblage*

Temporal (autumn/spring) variation in species composition and in the abundances of most populations was low in the *Silvetia compressa* understory assemblage. However, seasonal differences in community structure were generally detectable by ANOSIM tests. Previous research on populations associated with fucacean rockweeds has revealed low levels of seasonality (Oates 1981, Munda and Markham 1982, Josselyn and West 1985), and seasonal variation of most southern California intertidal populations is thought to be low (Littler 1980a,b, Foster et al. 1988, Littler et al. 1991, Murray and Bray 1993) and usually less than variation due to local or site-specific conditions (Murray and Bray 1993). However, considerable seasonal variation in subcanopy algal abundances has been found on colder New England shores where environmental conditions vary much more greatly over the year (Mathieson et al. 1991).

### *Site-Scale Variation in the Subcanopy Assemblage*

Although spatial variation on rocky shores has received much attention, few studies have described patterns of horizontal variation over short geographic distances (Foster et al. 1988). Most previous work has focused on vertical distributions and localized patchiness within sites (Mathieson 1979, Underwood 1981, Bourget et al. 1994, Underwood and Chapman 1996, Johnson et al. 1997) or effects of disturbances across sites resulting, for example, from wave exposure (Dayton 1975, McQuaid and Branch 1985, Kilar and McLachlan 1989), sewage outfalls (Littler and Murray 1975, 1978), or oil spills (De Vogelaere and Foster 1994, Smith and Simpson 1995).

Sessile invertebrate cover and mobile invertebrate densities were generally greatest at Woods Cove, Treasure Island, and Victoria Beach, the most wave-exposed of our study sites. Suspension-feeding sessile invertebrates reach greater abundances at wave-exposed sites (McQuaid et al. 1985), and several studies have described changes in species abundances and the trophic structure of intertidal communities across wave-exposure gradients (Lewis 1968, McQuaid et al. 1985, Ricketts et al. 1985, Foster et al. 1988). This suggests that even small variations in wave exposure, measured over scales of a half to several kilometers, might influence the structure of the *S. compressa* assemblage.

Sand disturbance, both within and across sites, can vary considerably over both short (days to weeks) (McQuaid and Dower 1990, Trowbridge 1996) and long (seasonal) (Markham 1973, Daly and Mathieson 1977, Stewart 1983) temporal scales. Crustose algae were found in abundance in the subcanopy assemblage at all sites, including those most influenced by sand. Greatest cover of articulated coralline algae and lower abundances of sessile and mobile invertebrates generally occurred at the more sand-influenced sites. Crustose algae are known to attain high abundances in intertidal habitats subjected to sand inundation (Littler et al. 1983, Murray

and Littler 1984, Murray and Bray 1993, Dethier 1994). Articulated coralline algae also can survive extended periods of sand burial (Littler et al. 1983, Littler and Kauker 1984, Murray and Bray 1993) and often trap and hold large quantities of sediment (Stewart 1983, McQuaid and Dower 1990, Whorff et al. 1995). Sand has been reported to correspond with reduced abundances of barnacles, mussels, and limpets (Seapy and Littler 1982, Littler et al. 1983).

Grazers in temperate fucoid assemblages can have patchy distributions over spatial gradients (reviewed by Hawkins and Hartnoll 1983b) and can alter algal and invertebrate populations by grazing or removing potential competitors (Dethier 1981, 1994). Grazers were abundant at Victoria Beach and Treasure Island, two sites with high wave exposure, low sand influence, and greater abundances of sessile invertebrates.

Most of our sites are subjected to high human visitation, and the foot traffic and collecting and exploratory activities of these human visitors are known to impact intertidal populations on these shores (Murray and Denis 1997, Murray 1998, Murray et al. 1999, Denis and Murray 2001) and elsewhere (Addessi 1994, Brosnan and Crumrine 1994, Keough and Quinn 1998, Schiel and Taylor 1999). Levels of human visitation vary among our sites (Murray 1998, Murray et al. 1999; Table 2), but a strong relationship between the density of human use and species abundance patterns could not be detected. Moreover, ANOSIM tests revealed that *S. compressa* subcanopy community structure did not vary significantly between historical MPAs and sites only recently receiving MPA protection, indicating that MPA designation has had little effect on the structures of the *S. compressa* understory communities at our study sites.

### *Implications for Among-Site Comparative Studies*

Much of the variation in species abundances over local or regional spatial scales has been attributed to differences in environmental

conditions such as wave exposure, water motion, disturbance, microhabitat variation, and to biological interactions (reviewed by Foster et al. 1988). We found high similarity among sites (Figure 2), suggesting relatively little structural variation in the *Silvetia compressa* assemblage. Nevertheless, using ANOSIM tests we were able to detect significant differences in multivariate structure in all comparisons of individual sites. In addition, significant differences in the cover or density of many of the more abundant populations also were found among sites using univariate procedures. Oceanographic conditions, such as sea temperature and salinity, were highly similar among sites. Consequently, among-site differences were likely due to site-specific disturbance histories, biological features (e.g., predation and grazing, recruitment), and what appear to be relatively small variations in environmental conditions (e.g., wave force, sand influence, habitat topography) (reviewed by Foster et al. 1988, Murray and Bray 1993). However, we were able to establish only weak relationships between variations in the abundances of subcanopy species or in the structure of the subcanopy assemblage and hypothetically important environmental or biotic factors that differed across study sites. These results for the relatively simple *S. compressa* understory assemblage underscore the difficulties in establishing post hoc relationships between environmental patterns and variations in species abundances in rocky intertidal habitats. They also suggest the importance of localized and stochastic disturbance histories in generating variation among populations and communities exposed to highly similar ocean conditions, even over distances of only a few kilometers.

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**Appendix**  
List of Species

Taxa	Location <sup>a</sup>
Division Chlorophyta	
<i>Chaetomorpha linum</i> (Müll.) Kütz.	CRC, WDS, VIC, TRI, MBY, DPT
<i>Cladophoropsis fasciculatus</i> (Kjellm.) Okam.	DPT
<i>Ulva californica</i> Wille	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY
Division Phaeophyta	
<i>Dictyota flabellata</i> (Coll.) S. & G.	CRC
<i>Halidrys dioica</i> Gardn.	SHW
<i>Hapterophycus canaliculatus</i> S. & G.	SHW, WDS, TRI, THS, DPT
<i>Hesperophycus californicus</i> Silva	VIC, TRI, MBY
<i>Petrospongium rugosum</i> (Okam.) S. & G.	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC
<i>Pseudolithoderma nigra</i> Hollenb.	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Ralfsia pacifica</i> Hollenb.	CRC, WDS, MBY
<i>Sargassum muticum</i> (Yendo) Fensh.	CRC, WDS
<i>Silvetia compressa</i> (J. Ag.) Serrão, Cho, Boo & Brawley	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Zonaria farlowii</i> S. & G.	CRC
Division Rhodophyta	
<i>Acrosorium venulosum</i> (Zan.) Kyl.	DPT
<i>Bosiella orbigniana</i> (Dec.) Silva	TRI, MBY
<i>Callithamnion rupicola</i> Anders.	CRC, SHW, WDS, THS
<i>Centroceras clavulatum</i> (C. Ag.) Mont.	CRC
<i>Ceramium sinicola</i> S. & G. or <i>Corallophila eatoniana</i> (Farl.) Cho, Choi, Hansen & Boo	CRC, SHW, WDS, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Chondracanthus canaliculatus</i> (Harv.) Guiry	CRC, SHW, WDS, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Chondracanthus spinosus</i> (Kütz.) Guiry	THS, DPT
<i>Chondria acrorhizophora</i> S. & G.	DPT
<i>Corallina pinnatifolia</i> (Manza) Daws.	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Corallina vancouveriensis</i> Yendo	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Cryptopleura crista</i> Kyl.	CRC, SHW, WDS, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Gelidium coulteri</i> Harv.	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Gelidium pusillum</i> (Stackh.) Le Jol.	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Herposiphonia verticillata</i> (Harv.) Kyl.	CRC, SHW, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Jania crassa</i> Lamour.	CRC, MBY, DPT
<i>Jania tenella</i> (Kütz.) Grun.	MBY
<i>Laurencia masonii</i> S. & G.	CRC, SHW, MBY, DPT
<i>Laurencia pacifica</i> Kyl.	CRC, WDS, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Laurencia</i> spp.	CRC
<i>Lithothrix aspergillum</i> Gray	CRC, WDS, THS, MBY
<i>Mazzaella affinis</i> (Harv.) Fredericq	CRC, TRI, THS, DPT
<i>Mazzaella leptorhynchus</i> (J. Ag.) Leister	THS, DPT
<i>Osmundea crista</i> (Hollenb.) Nam and <i>O. sinicola</i> (S. & G.) Nam	WDS, MBY
Peyssonneliaceae/Hildenbrandaceae	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Plocamium cartilagineum</i> (L.) Dix.	CRC, THS, MBY
<i>Polysiphonia pacifica</i> Hollenb.	CRC, SHW, THS
<i>Polysiphonia scopulorum</i> Harv.	CRC, MBY
<i>Polysiphonia</i> spp.	CRC, THS
<i>Pseudolithophyllum neofarlowii</i> (Setch. & Mason) Adey	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Pterocladia capillacea</i> (Gmel.) Santelices & Hommersand	CRC, SHW, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Pterosiphonia baileyi</i> (Harv.) Falk.	THS
<i>Pterosiphonia dendroidea</i> (Mont.) Falk.	CRC, SHW, WDS, THS, MBY, DPT
Unidentified crustose coralline	CRC, SHW, WDS, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
Unidentified Gigartinales	CRC, WDS, MBY
Phylum Porifera	
Unidentified sponge	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, MBY
Phylum Cnidaria	
<i>Anthopleura elegantissima</i> (Brandt, 1835)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT

## Appendix (continued)

Taxa	Location <sup>a</sup>
Phylum Annelida	
<i>Phragmatopoma californica</i> (Fewkes, 1889)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Spirobranchus spinosus</i> Moore, 1923	CRC, SHW, WDS, TRI, MBY
Phylum Arthropoda	
<i>Balanus glandula</i> Darwin, 1854	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, DPT
<i>Chthamalus dalli</i> Pilsbry, 1916	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Chthamalus fissus</i> Darwin, 1854	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Pachygrapsus crassipes</i> Randall, 1839	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Pagurus hirsutiunculus venturensis</i> Coffin, 1957	SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, MBY, DPT
<i>Pagurus samuelis</i> (Stimpson, 1857)	CRC, SHW, WDS, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Pollicipes polymerus</i> Sowerby, 1833	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI
<i>Pugettia producta</i> (Randall, 1839)	SHW, MBY
<i>Tetraclita rubescens</i> Darwin, 1854	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, MBY, DPT
Phylum Mollusca	
<i>Acanthina punctulata</i> (Sowerby, 1825)	TRI, MBY, DPT
<i>Acanthina spirata</i> (de Blainville, 1832)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Amphissa versicolor</i> Dall, 1871	TRI
<i>Bittium attenuatum</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	TRI, MBY
<i>Brachidontes adamsianus</i> (Dunker, 1857)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Cerastoma nuttalli</i> (Conrad, 1837)	MBY
<i>Conus californicus</i> Reeve, 1844	CRC, SHW, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Crepidula adunca</i> Sowerby, 1825	TRI, MBY
<i>Dendropoma lituella</i> (Mörch, 1861)	CRC, WDS
<i>Diaulula sandiegensis</i> (Cooper, 1862)	MBY
<i>Epitonium tinctum</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Fisurella volcano</i> Reeve, 1849	CRC, SHW, WDS, MBY, DPT
<i>Glans subquadrata</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	MBY
<i>Hipponeux tumens</i> Carpenter, 1864	WDS, MBY
<i>Lepidochitona dentiens</i> (Gould, 1846)	VIC
<i>Lepidochitona bartwegii</i> (Carpenter, 1855)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Litophaga plumula</i> (Hanley, 1843)	MBY
<i>Littorina keenae</i> Rosewater, 1978	SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Littorina scutulata</i> Gould, 1849	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Lottia asmi</i> (Middendorff, 1847)	WDS, DPT
<i>Lottia conus</i> (Test, 1945)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, THS, DPT
<i>Lottia digitalis</i> (Rathke, 1833)	WDS, TRI, MBY
<i>Lottia gigantea</i> Sowerby, 1834	SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI
<i>Lottia limatula</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Lottia pelta</i> (Rathke, 1833)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Lottia</i> spp.	SHW, WDS, VIC, MBY
<i>Lottia strigatella</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Macclintockia scabra</i> (Gould, 1846)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Macron lividus</i> (A. Adams, 1855)	CRC, SHW, WDS, TRI
<i>Maxwellia gemma</i> (Sowerby, 1879)	MBY
<i>Mopalia ciliata</i> (Sowerby, 1840)	TRI
<i>Mopalia muscosa</i> (Gould, 1846)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Mytilus californianus</i> Conrad, 1837	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i> L., 1758	CRC, SHW, WDS
<i>Norrisia norrisi</i> (Sowerby, 1838)	CRC, MBY
<i>Nucella emarginata</i> (Deshayes, 1839)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, DPT
<i>Nucella lamellosa</i> Gmelin, 1791	VIC
<i>Nucella</i> spp.	VIC
<i>Nuttallina californica</i> (Reeve, 1847)	SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Nuttallina fluxa</i> (Carpenter, 1864)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Petalochonchus montereyensis</i> Dall, 1919	CRC, SHW, WDS, TRI, DPT
<i>Pseudochama exogyra</i> (Conrad, 1837)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Septifer bifurcatus</i> (Conrad, 1837)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT

## Appendix (continued)

Taxa	Location <sup>a</sup>
<i>Serpulorbis squamigerus</i> (Carpenter, 1857)	CRC, SHW, WDS, TRI, MBY
<i>Stenoplax conspicua</i> Pilsbry, 1892	THS
<i>Tegula aureotincta</i> (Forbes, 1852)	SHW, MBY, DPT
<i>Tegula eiseni</i> Jordan, 1936	CRC, SHW, TRI, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Tegula funebris</i> (A. Adams, 1855)	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, THS, MBY, DPT
<i>Tegula gallina</i> (Forbes, 1852)	CRC, SHW, THS, MBY, DPT
Phylum Echinodermata	
<i>Strongylocentrotus purpuratus</i> (Stimpson, 1857)	MBY
Phylum Ectoprocta	
Unidentified bryozoan	CRC, SHW, WDS, VIC, TRI, MBY, DPT

<sup>a</sup> See Figure 1 for explanation.